

Date: December 8th, 1988

Subject: Meetings With Montana Air & Water Quality Bureaus and
Solid Waste Bureau

From: D. F. Ryan

To: T. F. Payne

On November 30, 1988, representatives of CFAC met with the Montana Air & Water Quality Bureaus to discuss a compliance plan relating to the notice of violation for the paste plant mixer stack and to discuss a change in the emission rule for the potroom roofs. On the same date a meeting was held with the Solid Waste Bureau to discuss a date for relisting of spent potlining. Representing CFAC were Tom Payne, Jack Canavan, Bob Smollack and Don Ryan.

Air and Water Quality Bureau Meeting

Representing the AQB were Jeff Chaffee, AQB Chief, Harry Keltz and Warren Norton. Representing the WQB were Fred Shuman and John Arrigo. Following are the points of discussion at the meeting.

Paste Plant Compliance Plan

Bob Smollack presented the engineering alternatives which had been investigated to date. They included wet scrubbing, fluid bed dry scrubbing and incineration. A compliance timetable was also presented. Specifics of the discussion include:

- The AQB accepted the timetable and indicate no particular preference for any alternative as long as it results in opacity compliance. The WQB prefers a dry system but indicated that there was some latitude for increasing the amount of carbon going to the north percolation pond as long as there was no significant impact to the groundwater. Water discharge from a scrubber would require a change in our groundwater permit. The problems inherent with a permit change do not appear to be difficult.
- The AQB will provide us with a compliance schedule based upon our timetable. The compliance plan will also include reporting requirements and will allow for a start-up and de-bugging period, in addition to our projected schedule.
- There is a question as to whether we will be subject to a 20% or 40% opacity regulation subsequent to installation of control equipment. The AQB is leaning toward 20%. This could be an arguable point, particularly if we put in best available control technology and have trouble meeting a 20% opacity standard.

Paste Plant Violation Penalty

The AQB informed us that since we are a Class A emission source adjacent to a non-attainment area, (Columbia Falls PM-10 non-attainment) EPA wants a fine imposed upon us as a "Significant Violator". The AQB is suggesting a penalty of \$10,000 with \$8,000 suspended upon compliance at the paste plant. They made a point of telling us that they have expressed their disagreement with EPA's designation of CFAC as a significant violator and with the imposition of the fine. This opinion has been submitted to EPA by letter. EPA has not formally responded in writing but has told the AQB that their opinion is falling on deaf ears.

If the AQB had not included a penalty with their citation, EPA could have submitted their own penalty and, if they so chose, could have assumed responsibility for the compliance plan. EPA is still in a position to review both the compliance plan and the fine and to recommend or institute changes as they see fit. Stay tuned.

The Columbia Falls non-attainment district is being evaluated by Bob Jeffries of the AQB to define the contributing sources to the PM-10 violation. They are computer modeling the samples collected, according to chemical finger-prints of road dust, wood burner smoke and aluminum plant emissions. Jeffries feels the problem is primarily road dust and says he should be able to quantify CFAC contributions to the problem, if any.

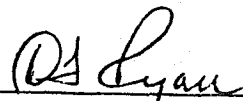
Potroom Emission Rule

The change in the 10% opacity rule, to confine it to potroom roofs only, has been published in the Montana Administrative Register and will be presented to the Board of Health on January 6, 1989. There are some minor language changes to be made for conformity to the EPA standard. The AQB is also evaluating a request from us to remove the term "potroom group" and substitute "potroom" in the portion of the standard dealing with opacity measurement. If they can do this, it will eliminate some ambiguity in the way a reading might be taken. A CFAC representative will be at the board meeting.

Meeting with the Solid Waste Bureau

Representing the Solid Waste Bureau were Roger Thorvilson and Barbara Jones. We again brought up the relisting date for SPL. Roger told us that no decision had yet been made but they were favoring our request to make the relisting date July 1, 1990. He said that there was no hurry, in that, until the Bureau specifically relists the waste, it remains unlisted. At our request, he was to update Dr. John Drynan on the status of the relisting.

Roger Thorvilson notified Jack Canavan by phone, on December 7, 1988 that the relisting date will be July 1, 1990 and that we will receive a confirming letter.



Donald F. Ryan
Laboratory Superintendent